

September 27, 2016

A work session of the Council of the Town of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 5:30 p.m., September 27, 2016.

Members present: Councilman Tim Black; Councilman Robert D. Carson; Councilman Stacey L. Hailey; Vice Mayor Steve C. Rush; Councilman Beckham A. Stanley; and Councilman James A. Vest

Members absent: Mayor Robert T. Wandrei

Staff present: Town Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; Town Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher

Vice Mayor Rush opened the meeting.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of the Liberty High School (LHS) baseball team using the baseball field at Liberty Lake Park for practice because of construction at the school. School Board Chairman Gary Hostutler explained the plans for construction on the gym at LHS. There was also discussion regarding upgrades that would need to be made at the field and who would pay for the upgrades

Councilman Black moved that Council adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(a)(7), of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended for consultation with legal counsel regarding review of the solar proposal and discussion of tax issue. Councilman Hailey seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Black	aye
Councilman Carson	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Vice Mayor Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Mayor Wandrei	absent

Council adjourned into closed session at 5:52 p.m. The following non-council members attended: Town Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; Town Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; Assistant Town Manager Bart Warner; Finance Director Sonia Jammes; Chief of Police Todd Foreman; Electric Director John Wagner; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Council reconvened into open session at 6:15 p.m.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Bedford hereby certifies that (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed

September 27, 2016

meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

On motion by Councilman Black, seconded by Councilman Hailey, voted upon and carried by a roll call vote, Council adopted the resolution. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Carson	aye
Councilman Hailey	aye
Vice Mayor Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Councilman Black	aye
Mayor Wandrei	absent

Town Manager Kolakowski reported that Wayne Hale, Town Engineer, has been in contact with the contractor on the Burks Hill drainage issue that is one of the priority projects as identified by Council. The staff will be reporting back to Council on what that contractor says it will take to do that particular project. Mr. Kolakowski said that Norfolk Southern is harder to get in touch with and deal with as far as the project below the parking lot on Bridge Street. The Bridge Street Parking Lot is the second priority project for the drainage issue.

The Town Manager spoke about the sidewalk portion of the revenue sharing proposal that is being reviewed and creating a new walking loop. He indicated there is other maintenance that needs to be done.

Town Manager Kolakowski said that members of Council received a letter from the Bedford Elks Lodge requesting the Town to relieve the lodge from real estate tax liability on its property located on W. Main Street (tax map 193 A 51 T) and Ashland Avenue (tax map 172 A 1A T). The Town Manager gave Council a list of the tax exempt properties in the Town.

Councilman Vest left the meeting from 6:28 p.m. until 6:34 p.m.

Council reviewed and discussed the list of tax exempt properties. Discussion ensued about the possibility of revoking some of the tax exempt properties. Mr. Berry said he was not certain on what grounds Council could revoke the tax exempt status once they were issued by the General Assembly.

Councilman Stanley asked the City Attorney to look into the process of revoking tax exempt properties.

Mr. Warner gave an update on the following items: the Comprehensive Plan draft is underway and it is expected to be presented to the Planning Commission at its meeting on

September 27, 2016

November 3 meeting; a meeting is scheduled with Wiley & Wilson on September 29 to talk about moving forward with the Bedford Middle School feasibility plan; the Enterprise Zone boundary adjustment has been approved at the staff level; staff will be submitting a request for qualifications to conduct a pay study subject to Council's vetting, approval, and cooperation; health insurance costs have gone up thirty percent over the last five years and the staff is actively looking at alternatives and options for the Town's employee health insurance coverage; the Town's new website design will be unveiled soon.

Police Chief Foreman reviewed the following: Centerfest will be held on October 8 and the Cruise-In will be held on October 7; the Crime Prevention Coalition is having a movie night on October 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Edmund Street Park; mental health complaints are still a challenge for the department and a meeting was held with the Crisis Intervention Team Advisory Committee - a meeting with the Bedford County Sheriff's Department, himself, and Central Health representatives to work out some of the issues that the department is seeing; reviewed upcoming training; the new police cars have been ordered; and the body cameras are in the last phase of testing.

Finance Director Jammes reviewed highlights from the Finance Committee meeting which was held earlier in the day: the auditors are scheduled to be at the Council work session on October 25 to present the FY 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report; the Risk Management Grant Award letter was received - \$4,000 was approved; reviewed data regarding the meals tax - the town is on schedule to collect \$100,000 to be used for Economic Development; the Town received some significant wire transfers and checks and explained what they were; the fiscal year ended with some excess funds from salary savings and a potential bonus stipend for the staff will be discussed at the regular meeting.

The Town Manager reported that Mr. Warner will be completing the draft of the Comprehensive Plan; he will possibly distribute it to Council in November; and a meeting will be scheduled to review the draft.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.